



Thursday, September 9, 2004
Contact: Ethnie Groves, Governor's Office, 608-261-2156

Governor Doyle Marks Preparedness Month by Appointing State Citizen Corps Council

Governor Jim Doyle today signed an Executive Order creating Wisconsin's State Citizen Corps Council. The council will help train Wisconsin citizens on how to effectively supplement the state's professional police, fire, emergency management, public health, and public safety capabilities in order to build safer communities and help prevent, prepare, and respond to emergencies at all levels.

"Many Wisconsin residents drove to New York after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks because they wanted to help," Governor Doyle said. "Citizen Corps represents our effort in state government to help capture the renewed spirit of volunteerism and civic duty that has grown in the wake of that terrible tragedy."

Appointments to the Citizen Corps Council will include citizens, volunteer organizations, and emergency service providers from across the state. The council will provide leadership for the development of local citizen corps throughout Wisconsin.

Citizen Corps programs include the following:

- **Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT).** CERT educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. Using their training, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event, and can take a more active role in preparing their community.
- **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC).** MRC strengthens communities by helping medical, public health, and other volunteers offer their expertise throughout the year as well as during local emergencies and other times of community need. MRC volunteers work in coordination with existing local emergency response programs and also supplement existing community public health initiatives, such as outreach and prevention, immunization programs, blood drives, case management, care planning, and other efforts.
- **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS).** VIPS works to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers, and serves as a gateway to resources and information for and about law enforcement volunteer programs.

"Wisconsin residents have a strong volunteer spirit and always offer help in times of need," said Governor Doyle. "When disaster strikes, be it by tornado or terrorist attack, this Citizen Corps Council will ensure that we have informed and organized teams of volunteers that are trained and ready to help throughout Wisconsin."

- MORE -

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Page 2 of 2

Governor Doyle appointed Bill McReynolds, Racine County Executive and former sheriff, as Chairman of the State Citizen Corps Council. The remaining 19 members of the council will be appointed later this month.

Governor Doyle's Executive Order establishing the Wisconsin State Citizen Corps Council:

<http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=835&locid=19>

For more information on Citizen Corps, visit the Office of Justice Assistance website at

<http://oja.state.wi.us>.